In respect of Telecom Engineering and Accounts and Finance posts, it is stated that keeping in view the fast changing business as well as technological scenario, need based promotions as well as outside recruitment had been done in the past and will be continued in future as well. Creation and filling up the posts are continuous processes.

Telephone connections

407. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of landline telephone connections, both by public and private service providers given across the country; and

(b) the number of mobile telephone connections, both by private and public service providers given across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The number of landline and wireless telephone connections, both by public and private service providers in the country as on 31st December, 2008 are given below:

	By public service providers	By private Service providers
Landline telephone Connections (in million)	33.03	4.86
Wireless telephone Connections (in million)	50.41	296.48

Opening of new Post Office

408. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several complaints have come up against Khabra Branch Post Office of Muzaffar Pur District (Bihar) concerning late/non-distribution of letters at Bhikhanpura Mohalla;

(b) whether it would be appropriate to open a new branch of Post Office at Bhikhanpura Mohalla and this suggestion have been given from residents too; and

(c) what are the requisite criteria for opening up this new Branch Post Office and by when the Government would be setting up of this new branch Post Office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. No complaint against Khabra Branch Post in Muzaffar Pur District (Bihar) has been received).

(b) and (c) Opening of new Post Offices is an ongoing process. Post Offices are opened in those places where there is demand and justification for Post Offices. Opening of new Post